

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 09/775,760

Group Art Unit: 1623

Inventor(s): Mallon et al.

Filed: 2/2/01

Title: PRODUCTION OF POLYSACCHARIDE ETHERS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination of the above-identified patent application, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims *cancel?*

Please amend claims 1-32 without prejudice. *? Cancel?*

Please add new claims 33-51 as follows:

Subt B *A1* ~~33. In a process for producing polysaccharide ethers comprising:~~

- ~~(i) treating polysaccharide with a basic compound to promote swelling of the polysaccharide;~~
- ~~(ii) reacting the polysaccharide with at least one derivatizing agent in a liquid medium comprising at least one organic solvent under conditions effective to promote a reaction between the polysaccharide and the derivatizing agent and form a reaction product comprising a polysaccharide ether, the basic compound and the organic solvent and a residue of the polysaccharide;~~
- ~~(iii) treating at least a portion of the reaction product comprising the basic compound with an acidic compound to provide a neutralized liquid comprising a salt of the acidic compound and the basic compound; and~~

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